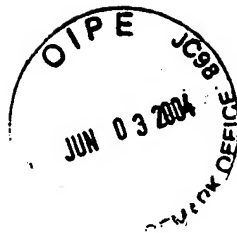


IFW



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08702.0068-01000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 )  
ZHANG et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1615  
 )  
Application No.: 10/779,638 ) Examiner: Not yet assigned  
 )  
Filed: February 18, 2004 )  
 )  
For: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS )  
FOR HEALING AND REPAIR OF )  
ARTICULAR CARTILAGE )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND CORRECTION OF PRIORITY CLAIM**

In the papers accompanying the filing of this application on February 18, 2004, Applicants made an error when identifying the filing date of the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/493,545. The correct filing date of U.S. Serial No. 09/493,545 is January 28, 2000. Applicants respectfully request that the claim for priority be corrected to reflect the January 28, 2000 date.

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** are included in this paper on page 2.

**Remarks/Arguments** follow the amendment sections of this paper on page 3.